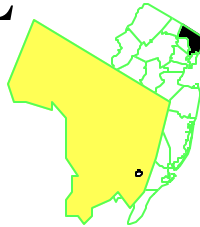


# UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD002005106



## EPA REGION 2 CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 09

Bergen County  
East Rutherford

Other Names:  
UOP Chemical Division

### Site Description

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The Universal Oil Products site is located on 75 acres site along Route 17 in East Rutherford. Various chemicals were manufactured there from 1932 until 1979, when the company ceased operations and dismantled the plant. The company also recovered solvents and waste chemicals at the site from 1960 through 1979. Approximately 4 ½ million gallons of waste solvents and solid chemical wastes were dumped into two unlined lagoons during this time, which resulted in contamination of the soil, surface water, and groundwater. Approximately 36,500 people within 3 miles of the site depend on groundwater for their source of drinking water. Groundwater also provides process cooling water to local industries. The site is in the coastal wetland management area of the Hackensack River Basin. Berry's Creek borders the southeastern part of the site, and Ackerman's Creek, which is a tributary to Berry's Creek, passes through the site. Berry's Creek joins the Hackensack River about 3 ½ miles downstream from the site. Local residents use the area's surface water for recreation.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through a combination of Federal, State, and Potentially Responsible Parties' actions.

#### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/01/82

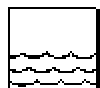
Final Date: 09/01/83

## Threats and Contaminants

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Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzenes, trichloroethylene (TCE), vinyl chloride, and toluene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead. Sediments contain PCBs. Soils contain VOCs, PCBs, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead. Surface water is contaminated with VOCs. People who come into direct contact with or accidentally ingest contaminated soil, sediments, groundwater, or surface water may suffer adverse health effects.



## Cleanup Approach

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Contamination at the site is being addressed in three phases. The first cleanup phase is addressing contaminated soils. The second phase of the cleanup is addressing contaminated groundwater. The third phase is addressing contaminants in the adjoining wetland/creek areas.

## Response Action Status

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**Immediate Actions:** Lagoons were addressed on an expedited basis by AlliedSignal, the parent corporation of Universal Oil Products and a potentially responsible party. Liquids, sludges, and sediments were removed from these surface impoundments by AlliedSignal under New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) oversight.



**Entire Site:** AlliedSignal, under NJDEP and EPA monitoring, completed a study of the nature and extent of contamination of site soils and groundwater. Based on the results of the study, the site cleanup has been divided into multiple remedial actions. A Record of Decision detailing the response actions for the site was signed in September 1993 and amended in December 1998. Remedial actions that address the contaminated soils and groundwater are near completion. PCB/PAH-contaminated soil have been addressed through a combination of thermal desorption and offsite disposal. A portion of the VOC-contaminated soils have been treated using soil vapor extraction. Lead-contaminated soils have been excavated and placed under the on-site cap. Groundwater was remediated by an on-site treatment system which operated from October 1997 through November 1998.

**Site Facts:** Under an Administrative Order on Consent from NJDEP, AlliedSignal has taken the lead in studying the nature and extent of contamination at the site as well as remedial actions. In 1999, Honeywell, Inc. merged into AlliedSignal and became known as Honeywell International, Inc. Honeywell has continued remedial activities at the site. While on-site source control remedies are underway as directed by the 1993 ROD and 1998 ROD Amendment, Honeywell has been evaluating appropriate remedial measures for the adjoining wetland/creek areas. It is anticipated that the

investigations will begin in late 2004.



## **Cleanup Progress**

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Under the immediate response actions, AlliedSignal, removed 950,000 gallons of contaminated water from the lagoon areas. Of the 950,000 gallons of water removed from the lagoon areas, 271,589 gallons were treated and discharged on-site and 678,411 gallons were transported to a treatment facility in Newark, New Jersey. Approximately, 8,600 tons of contaminated soils/sediments were removed from the lagoon area and transported to a hazardous waste landfill.

As directed by the Record of Decision, 8,200 tons of PCB/cPAH contaminated soils have been treated by soil vapor extraction and 6,600 cubic yards of PCB/cPAH contaminated soils have been disposed off-site. Additionally, 45,000 cubic yards of lead and PCB/cPAH contaminated soils have been placed beneath a multi-media cap. A Vapor Extraction system treated 3,200 tons of VOC contaminated soils. Approximately 6 million gallons of contaminated water from the shallow groundwater collection system were pumped and treated.

The first and second phases of cleanup are near completion. An initial investigation of the adjoining wetland/creek areas (the third phase of cleanup) was completed in 1990. Further remedial investigations were warranted after the 1990 investigation, but were delayed until the first and second phases of the cleanup were near completion. Additional remedial investigations of the wetland/creek areas and site-wide groundwater are necessary, and must evaluate contaminant exchanges with nearby Berry's Creek. Investigations in the wetlands will be coordinated with the investigations for the Berry' Creek Study Area, which are being conducted as part of the nearby Ventron/Velsicol site.

